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ABSTRACT

This brief publication summarizes data from the National Study of Postsecondary Faculty, 1988 and 1993, concerning the teaching workload of full-time college faculty. The following findings are highlighted: (1) In 1992, faculty members spent 54 percent of their work hours teaching, 18 percent conducting research, and 13 percent performing administrative tasks; (2) between 1987 and 1992, the percentage of time spent teaching decreased (from 57 to 54 percent) though the number of classroom and student contact hours increased; (3) generally, full professors spent a higher percentage of their time conducting research; assistant professors, instructors, and lectures spent the most time teaching; and (4) full-time faculty at 2-year institutions had substantially more student contact hours per week than did faculty at other institutions (87 percent more than those at liberal arts institutions and 67 percent more than those at research institutions). Tables and graphs present data on faculty time usage by academic rank and type of institution for 1987 and 1992. (DB)

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Teaching students is only one aspect of a postsecondary faculty member's job. Faculty members also spend time on other activities such as research, freelance work, administrative tasks, and professional growth activities. Debates about tenure, instructional time, and the overall quality of a college education raise questions about the actual time postsecondary faculty spend teaching relative to the time they spend doing these other activities.

- **In 1992, faculty members spent 54 percent of their work hours teaching, 18 percent conducting research, and 13 percent performing administrative tasks.**
- **Between 1987 and 1992, the percentage of time full-time postsecondary faculty members spent teaching decreased (from 57 to 54 percent); however, the number of classroom and student contact hours per week increased.**
- **Generally, full professors tended to spend a higher percentage of their time conducting research than other professors in 1992. Assistant professors, instructors, and lecturers spent a higher proportion of time teaching than full or associate professors.**
- **Full-time postsecondary faculty members at 2-year institutions had more student contact hours per week in 1992 than did faculty at other institutions (over 87 percent more than those at liberal arts institutions and 67 percent more than those at research institutions).**

Percentage of time full-time postsecondary faculty spent on various activities, by academic rank and type of institution: Fall 1987 and fall 1992

		Academic rank					Type of institution				
Activity	Total[1]	Full professor	Associate professor	Assistant professor	Instructor	Lecturer	Research	Doc-toral	Compre-hensive	Liberal arts	2-year
					Fall 1992						
Total[1]	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Teaching[2]	54.4	50.2	52.3	55.3	67.8	61.1	39.0	46.0	60.2	63.6	68.7
Research/scholarship	17.6	21.5	19.4	19.7	6.0	10.2	32.4	23.0	13.3	9.7	4.5
Professional growth	4.6	4.1	4.4	4.5	5.7	5.5	3.6	4.2	5.0	4.6	5.8
Administration	13.1	15.1	13.6	9.3	10.4	12.8	12.9	14.1	12.7	14.6	12.1
Outside consulting/ freelance work	2.7	3.0	2.9	2.1	2.6	2.3	2.6	2.6	2.8	2.3	2.7
Service and other	7.4	6.0	7.1	8.9	7.5	8.1	9.3	10.1	6.0	4.9	6.1
					Fall 1987						
Total[1]	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**	**100.0**
Teaching[2]	57.1	51.3	54.2	57.4	70.1	69.3	43.3	54.1	63.5	67.1	73.1
Research/scholarship	17.3	21.1	20.3	19.0	5.9	9.5	30.3	21.9	12.0	10.2	4.2
Professional growth	4.6	3.7	4.5	4.2	7.0	5.5	4.1	4.1	4.4	4.3	5.2
Administration	13.2	16.4	13.3	10.3	9.9	8.9	13.7	13.5	13.2	13.8	11.0
Outside consulting/ freelance work	2.5	2.8	2.6	1.8	2.7	3.6	2.5	3.1	2.8	1.6	2.5
Service and other	5.4	4.8	5.1	7.4	4.4	3.2	6.4	3.3	4.2	3.0	4.0

[1] Included in the total but not shown separately are other academic ranks and types of postsecondary institutions.

[2] Includes other activities besides teaching in the classroom such as grading papers, preparing for class, developing new curricula, advising or supervising students, and working with student organizations or intramural athletics.

NOTE: Data are revised from previously published figures. Totals may not add to 100 due to rounding. See the supplemental note to this indicator for further definitions of time spent by faculty.

SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Study of Postsecondary Faculty, 1988 and 1993.

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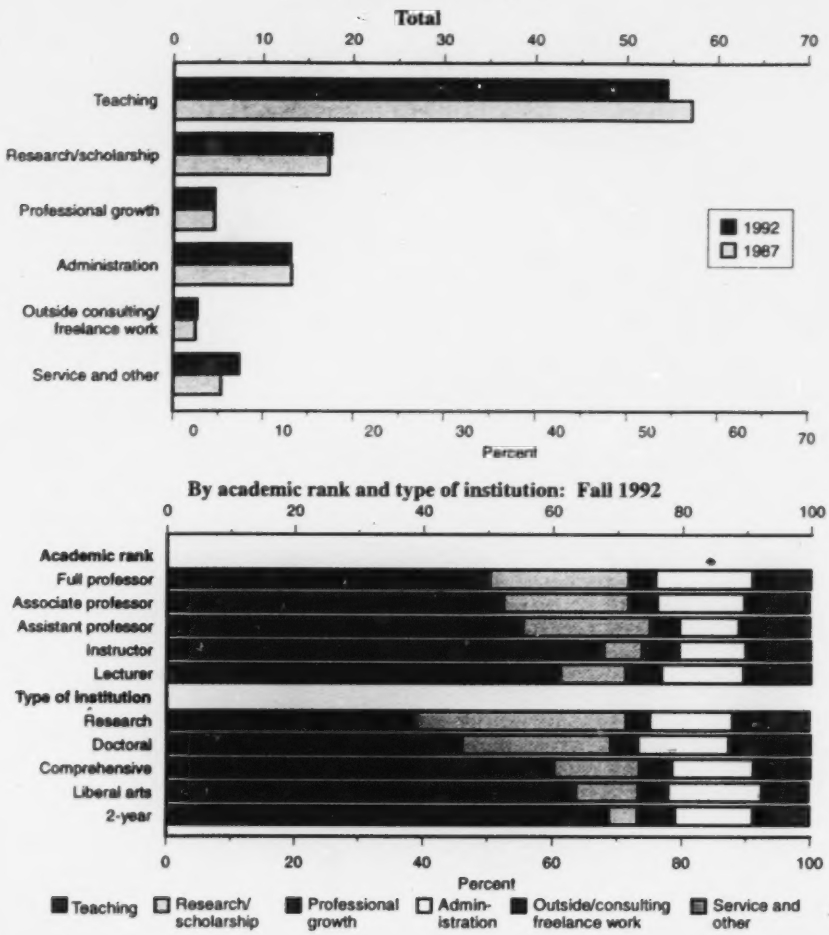
Percentage of time full-time postsecondary faculty spent on various activities: Fall 1987 and fall 1992



SOURCE: U.S. Department of Education, National Center for Education Statistics, National Study of Postsecondary Faculty, 1988 and 1993.

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